

# HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

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Massive Fightback Campaign Mounted as...

## HOSPITALS FACE THE AXE

As St Leonards and St Matthews hospitals are threatened with closure a massive fightback campaign is getting underway to oppose any further run-down of the National Health Service in Hackney.

A mass meeting of hospital workers at St Leonards has resolved to oppose plans to close the Casualty Department, general surgery and gynaecology beds at the hospital, as the City and East London Area Health Authority are proposing. If their plans are carried

Regional Health administrators what they think of their plans for City and Hackney Health Area.

There was overwhelming opposition to their plans to reduce still further the number of hospital beds in the borough. Hospital and health workers,

the rich just announced. This added extra irony to Hackney's plight. Helen Rosenthal, Secretary of the CHC, pointed out that Hackney was facing a reduction in hospital beds to 2 per 1000 of population, from 5 per 1000.

### Accident unit

About 70% of St. Leonard's intake is through the accident unit. The future of that is now, at best, uncertain. If the accident unit closes, as the Regional Health Authority intends, then it seems that total closure is inevitable, and its proposed role as a geriatric hospital will be short-lived. In short, 'another Bethnal Green'. Original plans for the area included the moving of geriatric patients from the crumbling Eastern Hospital at Homerton, to St.

Matthews on the other side of the borough. Now, with St. Matthew's 164 geriatric beds threatened too, those from the Eastern would also go to St. Leonards when it changes roles.

To add to the bleak picture for East London, the London Jewish and Mile End Hospitals also face closure. Building for the planned Homerton Hospital will not even be started for another year.

The reasons given for the cuts are basically economic ones. But the CHC questions even whether the administrators have done their sums correctly. City and Hackney Health District's report to the Area Health Authority by the District Management team proposes to save approximately £1.5million by their 'rationalisation' of the Health Service. Yet the CHC point out

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## Labour Returned

Labour won the by-election in Clissold ward, North Hackney, on the 21st June.



Howard Pallis was returned safely with an overall majority, but on a turnout of only 19%. The figures were: Mills (Con.) 315, Anderson (Lib.) 163, Pallis (Lab.) 864, Skeats (Comm.) 42. Maj. 549

In the 1978 council elections Robert Dick, the former councillor whose resignation prompted the by-election, suffered a 3% swing against Labour, to the Tories, on a 33% turnout. The result is pleasing to the Labour Party in view of the usual benefit to the Tories of low turnouts.

Les Skeats paid a high price for his 42 votes. He received the sack from his employers at the DHSS Arcola Street office for standing as a Communist Party candidate.



St Leonards Hospital, Shoreditch - facing closure.

ied out closure would be inevitable, with the use of St. Leonards purely as a geriatric hospital for an interim period. This would enable geriatric patients to be 'decanted' into St. Leonards from St. Matthews, which could then be closed.

### Opposition

The 'consumers' body that seeks to put public opinion to the NHS, the Community Health Council (CHC), has pledged to orchestrate a campaign. Opposition to closures is coming from a wide range of groups and organisations - hospital staff, GPs, Labour Parties, trades unions and community groups. The determination to oppose a further onslaught on Hackney's already much-maligned services was evident at a public meeting organised by the CHC last month. About 400 attended to make it quite clear to the

and other local people, showed what they thought of the assembled Health Services representatives. The pathetic arguments about Hackney having to make do with whatever they were allocated were over-ridden by those in the audience arguing for positive discrimination towards areas such as Hackney with a transfer of resources into poor areas, even if, as a North Hackney Labour Party speaker pointed out, it means affecting areas such as Ongar. Sir Harry Moore, chairman of the North East Thames Regional Health Authority, was particularly attacked for his negative stance in defending such cuts, and accused of being part of the "social blight of this community".

The meeting was conducted against the backdrop of Budget Day, with the cut in the top rate of income tax from 83% to 60% and a windfall for

## B.R.'s NUCLEAR ACCIDENT RULES - ARE THEY JOKING?

The transport of radioactive fuel and waste along the North London Line, through Hackney, has been causing much concern recently. Now new information has come to light showing the inadequacy of British Rail's precautions in the event of an accident to, or spillage of, such material.

"If repairing a nuclear fuel flask beware of standing against the flask for more than one hour, or up to three hours at a distance of five feet".

Such enlightening and precise details as these are put together by British Rail and supposedly given to staff working on trains carrying flasks of radioactive fuel. However information received by HPP shows that not only is the BR information inadequate in the event of an accident to fuel or waste, but that railway staff are not always informed anyway.

### Advice

In the event of an accident to a train conveying full flasks of Nuclear Waste B.R. advise "that the guard and

driver of the train must not proceed towards each other, but the driver go forward and the guard back so that they can provide appropriate protection. No other train may be allowed to approach the scene of the accident until the all clear is given by the health physicist".

Exactly how two B.R. staff walking along opposite of a railway track are to provide protection to the public following possible release of radiation into the environment, perhaps over a wide area around a train as a result of collision or derailment, is not very clear.

But, no need to worry because British Rail have worked out how to deal with cracked flasks. Everyone, says B.R., must be kept at a distance of 50 yards and

out of the area directly in front of the cracked flask.

### How?

Again, how B.R. plans to do this, for example if there was an accident on the North London Line on the bridge over Mare Street, is not clear. In any case it has been estimated that only a relatively small spillage would result in the need to evacuate an area of several square miles.

As for not standing too near the flask for too long, it is only to be hoped that even those who spend only an hour by a damaged flask have very efficient radiation suits on.

The farcical nature of such information clearly illustrates the complacency of authorities with regard to the potential hazards posed by all aspects of the nuclear industry. This 'information' supposedly for B.R.'s workers, is totally inadequate, and in any case not, as the

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# Letters

## CASE CORRECTION

Dear Hackney People's Press,  
In the report on my case in your April issue, you unfortunately attributed to me a view which I do not hold. You wrote that I asserted that the (relatively successful) outcome of my case was solely due to efforts of the defence lawyer. This is incorrect: I have been misquoted.

My assessment of the case is, and was as follows: Had I a barrister not as experienced, less capable, less courageous, and above all not as politically committed to the case and to the struggle of black people in this country as Ian MacDonald is, then I do believe that the outcome of the case would have been somewhat different. Anyone who attended the court or read the reports of the proceedings in your newspaper understood the nature of the bench (and clerk of the court) that I was up against.

To express such sentiments in relation to the defence barrister is clearly not synonymous with making the erroneous and absurd conclusion that the outcome of the case was solely determined by the particular qualities of an individual. In other words, I do believe, and in fact it was blatantly clear, that there were extra-judicial factors at work which clearly influenced

the outcome of the case: the picketing of the court (by among others, Hackney Black People's Defence Organisation, Hackney Campaign against Racism), the strong presence of supporters in the public gallery, the publicity of the case (including the excellent reportage of Hackney People's Press) etc, all combined to have a significant effect upon the outcome of the case. Indeed, the defence barrister acknowledged that this extra-judicial pressure upon the magistrates lightened his burden inside the court.

In conclusion I would like, if I may, to take this opportunity to thank all the people who supported me during my ordeal with "deh Babylon" and especially Hackney Black People's Defence Organisation (the initiator and organiser of the entire campaign), Hackney Campaign Against Racism, Grassroots, supporters from the L.S.E. (especially those from its newspaper "The Beaver"), the non-affiliated individuals who attended the court to picket and bear witness to the proceedings, the many witnesses who sacrificed so much time and energy to come forward and give evidence, and last but not least, Hackney People's Press.

Yours truly,  
Winston James.

## Local farm project

A project for a Hackney city farm is underway and is currently seeking a plot of land of 3-4 acres within the borough. On this ground it is proposed to keep a small number of a wide variety of domestic animals probably grow garden produce. But much depends upon the talents of local people, and what they could contribute. The immigrant population could make a valuable contribution, as many of them have first hand knowledge of rural farming.

It is hoped to involve local people and organisations of all types, who could visit and work on the farm along with full time workers. The project looks to Interaction and their city farm in North London as a model. It is also hoped to secure partnership funding, as the scheme should both involve the community and improve the environment - two prime aims of the Partnership scheme.

More info: Jane Daney, on 01 986 2807.

## Direct action halts lorries



The non-stop walkabout in Graham Road.

Graham Road gave a clear "Jugger Off" to heavy lorries when they literally took to the streets to back their anti-juggernaut campaign. Traffic was halted at 7.00 am on 13th June when 80 local residents walked non-stop for three quarters of an hour across a Graham Road zebra crossing to protest against heavy lorries.

The latest survey shows a

peak of 340 lorries an hour using the "rat-run" through Hackney and Dalston. Sympathy for those who have to endure this has come from a number of people - including Ron Brown M.P. and Hackney Borough Council. But it is down to the G.L.C. to divert or ban the lorries and the Graham Road residents now intend to concentrate their energies on them.

## STALEMATE ON SMALLEY

At an angry meeting of the tenants of Smalley Estate on June 7th the council faced a barrage of complaints about damp, cracked and fungus-ridden homes. The Smalley Estate, near Stoke Newington Common, has been so badly built and designed that already tenants need to be moved out after only two years.

However the council were

giving nothing away at the meeting, despite earlier promises to consider compensation and rehouse tenants. Now the council has categorically refused to compensate one tenant who had been forced to leave the estate, and only a handful of families have been offered alternative accommodation. To add to this, (despite our revelations in

June '79 issue of HPP), the council has still not released findings of the independent investigation into the causes of the estates' problems, for which the council is likely to take the brunt of the blame. So a position of stalemate remains. Speculation is rife that HBC will release only a partial report about the causes of Smalley's problems.

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT

Dear Friend,

At the recent conference of the Police Federation Mr Jim Jardine, the chairman, received overwhelming publicity for his call for the return of the death penalty for the murder of policemen and he was ably supported by Mr Eldon Griffiths MP. Mrs Thatcher has made her own position quite clear. She is in favour of bringing back the death penalty. Indeed we now learn that the return of capital punishment is to be on the agenda of this Parliament during its first year in office and although a "free" vote is to be allowed, we can guess that most Tory MPs will follow their leader.

When a country has to resort to capital punishment it means the government and the people have lost the ability (if they ever had it) to face up to the problems that confront them. They resort to a bestial, mediaeval form of barbarism that is so savage and vindictive that it is quite unbelievable that civilised people can contemplate it. What is happening in Ulster, U.S.A. and Iran should be a lesson to us all.

I am deeply concerned at the apathy of the opponents to capital punishment. They must wake up before it is too late.

There is an urgent need for a campaign to prevent the return of the death penalty and I should like to hear from those who are prepared to do something about it.

Love and peace,  
Douglas Kepper.

## Council 'rubber stamps' station plans

In the discussion of British Rail's planning application for the new Hackney Central station at the Hackney Planning Committee on June 5th, Councillor Bob Masters, the Committee chairman, remarked that if they agreed to the proposal they would undoubtedly be subjected to another learned article in Hackney People's Press. He's right! They did approve the plans and here is the article - you can judge whether it is learned or not.

Councillor Masters, obviously an avid HPP reader, was undoubtedly referring to the article headed 'Fiasco Over Hackney Station' (May issue) which outlined criticisms of the B.R. plan - in particular the fact that the station would be situated some 100 yards up a footpath from Mare Street and the buses. That article also suggested that Hackney Council Planning Committee would accept the proposals at their May 8th meeting.

### Criticism

In fact, purportedly to allow for further consideration of detailed criticisms made of the B.R. plans by both Hackney Public Transport Action Committee and the North London Line Committee a decision was deferred. However, whilst these reports were available in early May, the report to the June 5th meeting over the name of Planning Chief Terry Roberts - 'the man who gave you the Smalley estate' - was the same paper, dated 20th April that

was produced for the May 8th meeting.

That paper took a mainly architectural approach concentrating on such items as the type of bricks to be used much the same way as a bathroom extension would be treated. What was completely lacking was any planning input.

Curiously, although Terry Roberts summarised verbally the two committees' objections to the station proposal as designed, together with comments on them by British Rail, the GLC and the docklands development team, these objections were not sent out for members information with the committee papers. Thus whilst what Mr Roberts reported was factually correct, it lacked the emphasis present in the groups papers and thus may have led some members to presume the criticisms were carping.

### Key issues

Lack of a positive view by Terry Roberts on key issues raised both by the groups and by members made it difficult for members to form an opinion. When one councillor asked an important question on the effects the access and design of the station would have on its usage (and therefore its usefulness to the community) Mr Roberts did not appear to know the answer.

In spite of this however, he was able to speak in favour of acceptance of this planning proposal, stating that the design was similar

to many other stations erected by British Rail elsewhere. Mr Roberts had not appeared to consider whether what was all right for Sawbridgeworth (Birmingham) was appropriate for the centre of Hackney.

### Not answered

A notable feature of the discussion was the number of such questions which were raised in the voluntary group papers, stemmed from the replies of the various authorities or were asked by members but which remained unanswered. What is the officers' view for example of the costs and feasibility of using the existing Hackney station building at the corner of Amhurst Road and Mare Street? Is the new station design good value for money at £400,000 + or have better stations been built for similar sums? If more money is needed to provide a more acceptable station, is any money available from Partnership funds? Is a temporary station building, suggested by NLLC as a way to get the station open quickly and allow more time for a better design to be evolved, really not acceptable to staff, as B.R. suggest? Have staff representatives been asked? Does experience elsewhere bear this out?

Councillors and members of the public should have expected some answers to such questions from their officers, but such back up

such analysis, such probing, was manifestly absent. No dialogue was established to find out these answers.

Such a failure to provide necessary support for decision making on an important issue calls into question the whole operation of the Hackney Planning Department.

It was noticeable that when the Planning committee voted to accept the B.R. proposals, two of the members who were best informed, David Clarke and Richard Gee, voted against and abstained respectively. The rest of the committee were virtually sold this inferior proposal by Terry Roberts together with Keith Sharman of the Borough Design Engineer's section. There would appear, if the above example is typical, (and LBH Planning Officers showing on Liverpool Street suggests it might be) to be a clear case for reorganisation of both Planning and Technical and Contract Services departments, a move which would involve the suggestion to some officers that their experience might be more appropriate to another local authority (Tristan da Cunha District Council?) and that they could be eased on their way with a not so golden handshake!

There are some very important planning issues ahead and it is therefore very important that we have officers who are keen and prepared to fight for Hackney's interests. The alternative is for Hackney to continue as a second class borough.



# BAN THE JAB!

Depo Provera is an injection given to women to stop them getting pregnant, and it is effective for between three and nine months. It is an attractive sounding idea which is offered to, among others, women who have had problems using other contraceptives.

The drug is banned in the U.S. and is only approved by the U.K. committee on the safety of medicine for two specific short term uses, i.e. women whose husbands have had a vasectomy, and women who have recently had an injection against Rubellari (German Measles). D.P. is a powerful steroid based on the artificial

child as it grows up.

7) Once you've had the Depo injection you must put up with the side effects, however bad it makes you feel, for as long as the injection lasts (3-9 months).

D.P. is used for social rather medical grounds. In Glasgow women are allocated points for things like bad housing and being on social security - collecting eight points means an automatic referral to the Family Plan-

ning clinic with a recommendation that the woman be given D.P. It is used in other areas of high social deprivation, like East London, and is used on women who are unlikely to complain about it. For example, at the London Hospital in 1977 two thirds of the women given D.P. were Asian.

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## Hackney Action

The drug is widely prescribed in Hackney and for this reason a Hackney branch of the campaign against D.P. has been set up. On Friday 22nd June members of the Hackney campaign against D.P. leafletted the antenatal clinic at the Mothers Hospital. Included among the demonstrators were two women who have had D.P. prescribed to them by the Lower Clapton Health Centre and the Family Planning service. When they had it prescribed to them they were not warned of the possible severe side effects. Their consultations lasted "about five minutes".

After the leafletters had been there for about an hour and all the mothers-to-be in the ante natal clinic had been given a leaflet D.P.

that it had been used up to the previous day when the press had started taking an interest. However other staff at the hospital said that it hadn't been used there for three months. However, despite these denials one doctor said that she was still prescribing it frequently.

## Frightening Patients

At one stage the leafletters were told that they were frightening the patients - "they'll go home and have a miscarriage over you, they're all upset".

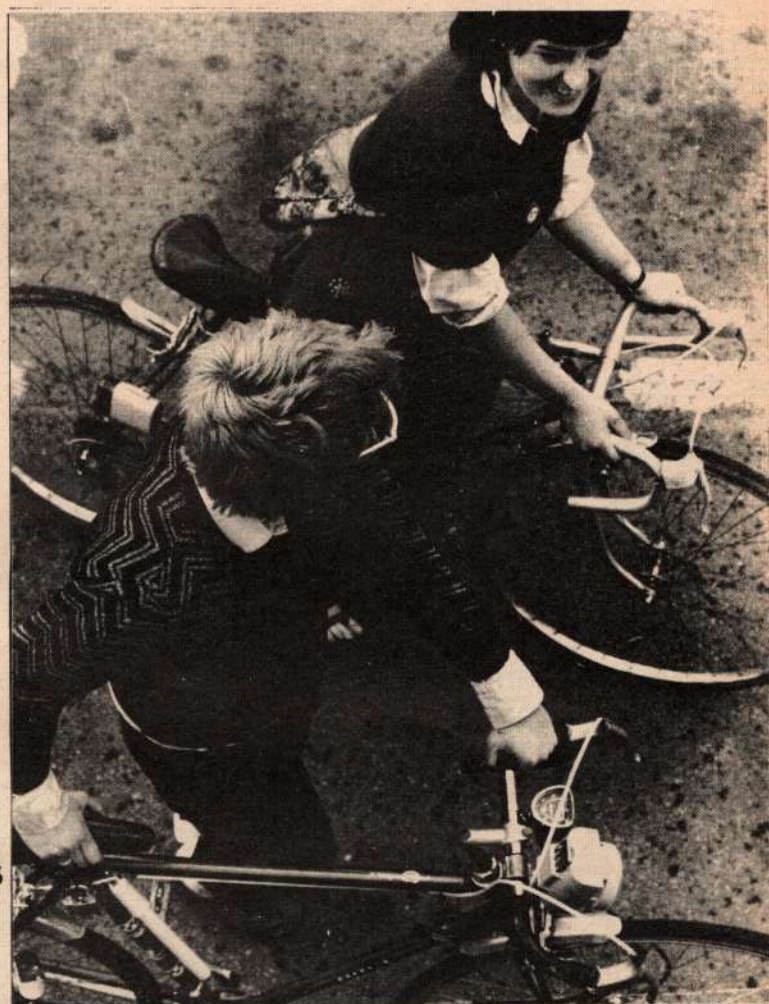
One of the leafletters replied: "They're not upset, and anyway we're the ones who have had it. We should be upset."

The head of the Family Planning services in Hackney had actually given her approval to the leafletting, she had said to the organisers "I think it would be a really good idea for you to go down there (to the Mothers) and talk to the women".

Shortly after the outburst mentioned above two porters and the hospital secretary came over and asked the leafletters to leave.

If you have any experience of the Depo Provera injection and want more information contact Fidelma Winkler 01 739 6308.

# ON 'ER (PUSH) BIKE!



The June 17th all-woman sponsored cycle ride from Trafalgar Square to Epping Forest and back was a great success. About 45 women went along and enjoyed the 28 mile scenic route through the marshes and Walthamstow, (not to mention not-so-scenic Hackney). After a few detours

the cyclists met a group of conga drummers for a drumming workshop in the Forest. 3000 who were lost followed a faint and distant tapping to the noisy centre. One sprained ankle and 5,743,298 mosquito bites were sustained. Proceeds to the W.A.A. and A.W.P.

## RESEARCHING YOUR LOCAL ECONOMY

Weekend course at the C.U.L. July 14th - 15th

Meetings at University of London Union, Malet St, WC1. The course is about giving people the tools to understand what is happening in the local economy, especially why there is unemployment and what can be done about it. Sessions will be about how to get organised, introduction to research methods, work of some projects (women, training etc.) and possible 'alternative strategies'.

ENQUIRIES: The Organiser, CUL II, 16, King St, WC2.

# State racism protest

On Saturday 16th June a march was held against State Racism. The march was from Marble Arch to Kilburn Square. It was initially called by East London United Troops Out Movement (UTOM) and supported by a large contingent of anti-racists from Hackney and Tower Hamlets as well as groups from other London areas, Sheffield, Oxford, Brighton, Bristol etc. The march stopped for five minutes outside Paddington Green police station. This is where people are held under the Prevention of Terrorism Act.

At Kilburn Square speakers spoke of the way the state attacks minority communities in a racist fashion, mainly through three racist sets of laws - the Immigration acts, the 'SUS' law, and the Prevention of Terrorism

Act - and through the police force.

At any one time there are 250 black or Asian people being held under the immigration acts. These mostly have not appeared before a court, but are held on suspicion by the police or immigration authorities mainly because of the colour of their skin.

The sus law is used extensively in Hackney and other places to harass and intimidate black youths.

The Prevention of Terrorism Act is used almost exclusively against Irish people. Recently there has been a resurgence of detentions under this act in Paddington Green, though no one has been charged. However doctors have been without sleep for 96 hours, and how some had been reduced to confused and ag-

itated states by the police.

The police in general are regarded by many as highly racist, but the most overtly so are the notorious Special Patrol Group. They have been active in Hackney, again mostly against black youth.

A speaker from East London UTOM showed how while these acts were different in their formation they were used in a similar way to suppress specific communities. She appealed for unity as the most effective way of combating these racist attacks. Already militants from black, Asian, and Irish communities in Hackney and Tower Hamlets are getting together to plan united action.

For information contact: East London UTOM, every Tuesday, 7.30, Trades Hall.

# SUPPORT FOR GAYS

At a recent meeting of the east London Gay Liberation Front the meeting undertook to provide practical and personal support for gay men and women who find themselves in trouble with the law as a result of their homosexuality.

There are many ways in which the law and the courts discriminate against gays simply because of their sexuality.

The Sexual Offences Act 1967 fixed the age of consent for homosexuals at twenty one, whereas for heterosexuals it is sixteen, and a prosecution may be brought even if the two men involved were both under the legal age of consent.

In cases concerning adoption, custody and access gays are assumed to be unfit to bring up children, even their own.

Some industrial tribunals

are hostile to gay people and will not support someone who has been unfairly dismissed for being gay, and in sentencing, the courts may use the Mental Health Act (1959) to detain "homosexual offenders" in hospital for longer than would have been the case if they had been sent to prison.

Coming in contact with the law can, at the best of times be a hassle, and at worst at nightmare. Unfortunately some people face it on their own. However, they will find that they need as much support as possible.

Any gay person who needs such support or wishes to join East London GLF and fight anti-gay discrimination in the area write to: E.L.G.L.F. c/o Q.M.C. Gay Liberation Society, Students Union, Queen Mary College, Mile End Road, London E1 4NS.



# NOW THE TORIES RULE WE ASK... What's Left in Hackney?

The election of the Tory government, the right-wing performance of the last government, the move to the right in British politics, the attack on working people's organisations, living standards and such vital services as the NHS, demand a co-ordinated fightback. Understanding and unity of those involved in the labour movement, community politics, the movements for racial equality and women's liberation is essential. This conference on strategies for socialist and community politics, organised by the Hackney People's Press, aims to provide a forum for a serious discussion and analysis of some of the main issues facing people in Hackney and to help develop a more purposeful movement. It will take place on Sunday July 22, 11am - 6pm, at the All Nations Club, Martello St, E8.

Below are some viewpoints on the future of left unity from the various groups who will be participating in the conference. The Labour Party will also be attending, but has not contributed to this preview.



## NEW COMMUNIST PARTY

The New Communist Party (NCP) welcomes the moves by Hackney Communist Party and Hackney People's Press to initiate a discussion on left unity.

In the first few weeks of a new Tory administration, the most reactionary since the 1930s, one has witnessed a massive attack upon the working class.

Unlike the 1930s, the movements for liberation and socialism are today dominant throughout the world. We must look upon Thatcher's policies in a world context. A world rapidly moving towards socialism.

There are many battles which the working class face at home and internationally. Due to lack of space it would be unjust to attempt to deal with all of them.

At the present time the NCP stands for the following:

- 1) No deal with the Tories.
- 2) No legal chains on the unions.
- 3) Free collective bargaining
- 4) No sackings, no redundancies
- 5) 35 hour week with no reduction in pay.
- 6) Kick the Tories out.
- 7) Return a Labour government committed to Socialist policies.

- 8) Build a united anti-fascist movement based on the working class. Disband the SPG and close down the NF office.
- 9) Solidarity with the people of Ireland and southern Africa in their fight against imperialism.
- 10) Support for 'detente' and the building of a mass peace movement.

There is one issue the NCP feels can be built into a massive campaign based on the working class, the Common Market.

Originally the working-class were hood-winked into believing that the Common Market was a land of milk and honey. The working class has discovered to its cost the opposite. "Jobs for the boys" was not a true representation of conditions inside the EEC. The working class has shown its total opposition to the EEC, and it is now possible to build a campaign to force Britain to leave the Market.

At the recent Euro - Election the NCP, along with others, called for a boycott of the election. From the beginning the NCP policy was

in tune with working class feelings. Though we had confidence in the working class, the massive 68% who abstained was a higher percentage than we had expected. Millions of working people throughout Britain showed their distrust of the EEC, and its undemocratic Parliament.

The NCP cannot take credit for such wide scale action, but we did make our contribution to achieving that result.

Some Social Democrats may believe that it is possible to change the Common Market 'system', or make it work for the people's interest. The working class obviously does not!

The issue is clear, a vast section of Britain's population oppose the EEC. It is possible to build a united campaign to get Britain out. It is also possible to win the Labour Party, before the next election, to a policy of taking Britain out of the Common Market immediately!

Michael Regan  
East London branch of  
New Communist Party.

## REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST TENDENCY

**LEFT FUTURE - CLASS POLITICS**  
Proposals to axe emergency services at St. Leonards demand a vigorous fightback in Hackney. The Conference called by Hackney People's Press is a welcome opportunity to debate the way forward. United resistance to Government cuts requires a clear strategy - one which puts local campaigns in the context of the struggle to defend all workers living standards at a time of capitalist crisis.

**CUTS - HOW TO FIGHT THEM**  
At the Community Health Council meeting of June 12th, anger was directed at Sir Harry Moore chairman of the Regional Health Authority, and his colleagues.

This emphasis on local bureaucrats as the villains distracts from the schemes of successive governments to cut public spending in order to regenerate British industry. If Hackney workers reject the national interest arguments that justify cuts, they will give the campaign to save

St Leonards a firm political foundation. This can prevent protests from being dissipated in the administrative strictures of the Health Service. It would also provide the opportunity to make common cause with other trade unionists who are forced to pay the price in jobs and wages for getting British business back on its feet.

**TORIES - THE REAL ENEMY?**  
The Hackney People's Press (June 1979) calls for "a political fightback against the Tories" But the Tories are only carrying on where Labour left off. It was a Labour government which all but closed the Bethnal Green Hospital, and closed the Metropolitan. The Labour Party is a firm supporter of the plans to save British capitalism that lies behind the cuts. Local members and left wing M.P.s may baulk at the consequences of their politics when they lead to hospital closures. Yet they agree on

the need for national regeneration which can only be achieved at the cost of services, jobs and wages. Few workers in this area voted for Thatcher, Joseph and co. - East London remains a Labour stronghold. In Hackney, Labour politics are the real problem; Labour's support for the national interest is a barrier to worker's unity; it undermines the fightback nationally and locally.

**UNITY IN ACTION**  
The Revolutionary Communist Tendency supports united action to defend living standards. We are ready to participate in activity against closures, against attacks on any section of the working class. At the same time we point out the political preconditions of a united fightback - the rejection of Labourism.

Chris Nelson  
East London Revolutionary Tendency, B.M.  
R.C.T. London WC1V 6XX.

## CONFERENCE AGENDA

- 11.00 - After the Election - Strategy for Socialists
- 1.00 Speakers: Arthur Latham, former chairman of the Tribune Group, presently chairman London Labour Party, & Martin Jacques, editor of Marxism Today and member of the Communist Party's political committee.
- 1.00 - Lunch
- 1.45 - 8 Workshop Discussions
- 3.30 \*The Labour Council and the Left: Introduced by Cllr Brian Weller
- \*Thatcherism or Socialism - The People's Choice: Introduced by Eric Rechnitz, (TGWU executive member representing road haulage)
- \*Trades Unions and Socialist Policies: Introduced by Barney Schuster (NUTGW shop stwd)
- \*Local Media - The Right Message: Introduced by Charles Foster (Hackney People's Press)
- \*Health - Getting Back to the Welfare State: Introduced by Fidelma Winkler (secretary City & Hackney Community Health Council)
- \*The Fight For Racial Equality: Intro by Trevor Carter (Pres Caribbean Teachers' Assn)
- \*Housing - Policies for People: Intro by Cllr Anthony Kendall (vice-chair Hackney Council housing development committee)
- \*The Link Between Community and Socialist Politics: Intro by Andreas Michalides
- 3.35 - Workshop Reports and Discussion
- 4.15 - Tea
- 4.35 - Final Plenary Session with remaining workshop reports, general discussion and reply.
- 6.00

For further information, contact: CHRIS GREEN, CONFERENCE ORGANISER, 57 BALLS POND ROAD, N.1; Tel: 254 1306

## INTERNATIONAL MARXIST GROUP

The election of a Tory government is going to have a dramatic impact on the lives of working people in Hackney. It will mean further cuts in services, a steep rise in unemployment, greater police harassment of black people - not to mention the effect that price rises are already having on our standard of living after Howe's budget for the rich.

So the left's starting point has to be the need to get rid of the Tories - not by waiting five years as Callaghan advises, but through mass action of the kind that made the Industrial Relations Act a dead letter in 1972 and finally brought down Heath in 1974.

No way, however, are we prepared to suffer a repeat of the 1974-79 Labour government, whose right-wing policies opened the door for Thatcher. The struggle to kick out the Tories therefore needs to be combined with a fight for socialist policies which will allow working people to take control of their own society in their own interests.

That means a number of things for the left in Hackney. First, we're not starting from scratch. Labour movement organisation and campaigning is already well established in the area.

Our unions. Local militancy in the public sector won a settlement significantly better than in most boroughs. But solidarity will be necessary to preserve these gains against spending cuts and the comparability con-trick. The trades council helped to win support for the Ford strikers with a public meeting, and its role in co-ordinating and developing action against the Tories' attacks will be very important.

The Labour Party. The left's

gains were seen in the hearing won for socialist policies in Hackney North through Ernie Robert's election campaign. Regular open meetings at which our Labour MPs can report back on how they are fighting for our interests will be an essential part of maintaining democratic accountability in the fight against the Tories.

Our Labour councillors must also be judged by the extent to which they put their weight behind building a mass campaign of action against the Tories' cutbacks. Rate increases are a cop-out which only hit working people another way.

**Campaigns.** A large number of campaigns and projects are already getting to grips with aspects of Tory policies: Hackney Committee Against Racism, the ANL, the campaigns against education and health cuts, Hackney Girls' Project, Rock Against Racism, the United Troops Out Movement...and many more. To build and publicise these on a democratic and non-exclusive basis is one immediate priority.

But there is also a crying need to bring the activists from these areas together on a regular basis to begin to hammer out some of the general questions facing the Hackney left in the fight for socialism. We need to see how all the various things we're doing fit together. HPP can help to do this (an example is the proposal to incorporate an HCAR bulletin). This conference is another opportunity. Perhaps we need something like a Socialist Centre?

But whatever form it takes, dialogue among all sections of the left in order to develop unity in action against the Tories must be our watchword in the coming months.



# MOURNING BLAIR

William Morris wrote 'A Death Song' for the funeral of Alfred Linnell in December 1887. Linnell was a young radical clerk who was killed in a police charge against demonstrators leaving Trafalgar Square on 20 November following a demonstration against Government suppression of radical meetings. He was buried in Bow Cemetery, East London, and on the day of the funeral tens of thousands of people joined the cortege to pay their last respects.

What cometh here from west to east awending?  
And who are these, the marchers stern and slow?  
We bear the message that the rich are sending  
Aback to those who bade them wake and know.

Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,  
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

We asked them for a life of toilsome earning,  
They bade us bide their leisure for our bread;  
We craved to speak to tell our woeful learning:  
We come back speechless, bearing back our dead.

Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,  
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

They will not learn; they have no ears to hearken.  
They turn their faces from the eyes of fate;  
Their gay-lit halls shut out the skies that darken.  
But lo! this dead man knocking at the gate.

Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,  
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

Here lies the sign that we shall break our prison;  
Amidst the storm he won a prisoner's rest;  
But in the cloudy dawn the sun arisen  
Brings us our day of work to win the best.

Not one, not one, nor thousands must they slay,  
But one and all if they would dusk the day.

## COMMUNIST PARTY

British politics have clearly moved to the right in recent years. The dramatic Tory election victory based on the most political campaign for right wing ideas and policies for a long time is a severe setback for the left, for the working class, for all concerned with democratic rights. In Hackney, where so many are affected by unemployment, bad housing, low pay, racial discrimination, a poor environment and many other chronic problems, we will be particularly badly affected.

We are entering a period where the gains made during 1945-51 - particularly in public welfare services - are being seriously undermined. The new Tory government has learnt from the 1970-74 period. Their strategy is not just to attack working people's living standards, rights and organisations, but also to promote individualism, to give people an apparent stake in capitalist society. The run-down of the NHS, the attack on comprehensive education, the sale of council homes and the promotion of private health insurance, home ownership etc., has a broad political purpose as well as being an attack on people's social standard of living. Their aim is to create a strong, mass base for the right.

This serious situation has arisen mainly because the continued right-wing domination of the labour movement and Labour government led to the adoption of conservative policies in many fields. These conservative policies - high unemployment, public service cutbacks, unfair incomes policies - disillusioned Labour supporters, offended the uncommitted, alienated the young and gave the right the political initiative.

To begin to meet the challenge from the right, to make an effective fightback against the Tories, requires both serious thinking and action. A vital aspect of any strategy to defeat the Tories is to develop new forms of effective left unity. This means working for closer unity between sec-

tions of the labour movement; developing new links and unity with democratic movements and community organisations; establishing strategic political unity amongst socialists, particularly in the two working class political parties, the Labour Party and the Communist Party. To be effective we must also analyse the recent past and present political situation in a serious way, honestly recognising the weaknesses and mistakes of the left, as well as our few successes.

In Hackney we have, to some extent, bucked the national political trend. In recent years many of the organisations and institutions of the borough have moved to the left or developed in a progressive, campaigning way. This is true, for example, of some unions, parts of the Labour Party, the Council for Racial Equality and the Community Health Council. Ethnic minority and Community groups have grown in number and political strength, and both the Labour left and the Communist Party have expanded. But, we have big problems which weaken our ability to defend both our present liberties and living standards and to make vitally necessary advances. These problems, the relatively small number of people involved in political and campaigning activity, the way in which the Council is largely dominated by an authoritarian, bureaucratic style of politics, the failure of the movement to secure fuller participation by some big groups of organised workers and our organisational weakness in some industries need to be confronted and, by patient activity, unifying initiatives and imaginative commitment, overcome.

The right can - and will - be defeated by mass movements and activity. But the left can only seize and retain the initiative by working in more purposeful, united and practical ways which will inspire people into action and develop wider commitment to the socialist alternative to the unjust and oppressive society ruled by Thatcher's Tories.

David Green,  
Secretary Hackney  
Communist Party.

"If you stay off the streets, and behave yourself then you've nothing to worry about with the S.P.G. (Special Patrol Group)"

- David McNee, Commissioner Metropolitan Police.

When we have a racist police force then being an anti-racist is, in their eyes, 'not behaving yourself'.

The funeral of Blair Peach, until his death an active

tributes were made by Paul Holborow of the Anti Nazi League, Ken Gill of the TUC executive, a former pupil of Blair Peach, Dick North of the NUT executive and finally by Tony Cliff of the Socialist Workers Party, who reminded us of the slogan introduced by the young black South Africans after the uprising and massacre at Soweto - "Don't mourn, organise."

any more was that someone else in front of me was being attacked and hit in the testicles by three policemen with their truncheons".

- Amanda Leon (Teacher)

"Blair Peach was hit in the head with police truncheons and left unconscious...Blair Peach was with us"

- Martin Gerald (Teacher)

"Two van loads of police came down the road after some



anti-racist, was held on 13th June. The official estimate for the attendance was 5,000, which means that there were probably between seven and eight thousand there.

## Procession

The silent procession was led by two hearses laden with floral tributes, and a third hearse carrying the body of Blair Peach. Following this were the immediate family in cars, and the thousands of mourners behind the banners of the Inner London Teachers Association, the East London Teachers Association of which Blair was President, and many national trade union and political banners.

The funeral march proceeded slowly from Phoenix School, Bow, to the East London cemetery in Plaistow, and there, just before Blair's body was lowered into the ground, final

In his graveside tribute Blair Peach's brother called for Blair's murderer to be brought to justice, but it was April 23rd when Peach died and no one has yet been charged. Although an SPG member has been suspended from duty as a result of behaviour at the Southall demonstration, the police say that this is not in connection with the Blair Peach murder. If this is true then they have not detained any Special Patrol Group member for the murder of Blair Peach. In other words our "wonderful" detectives can't work out which person did it even though the suspect can be one out of a group of only 200, and despite the fact that there are four eye witnesses "I saw this man being hit by the police with truncheons" - Parminder Atwal, (local Resident) "I saw him (Peach) hit once and the reason I did not see

demonstrators, the police jumped out and started beating people. They beat this man to the ground." - Yaqoobmasih Bhatti, (local resident).

## Young People

At the funeral there were many young people and one of them asked "What would have happened if a policeman had been killed?" We can be sure that a very fast and furious enquiry would have been launched, and it is very likely that the killer would have been apprehended. But the dead man was an anti-racist, and the murderer was in the SPG.

We must demand that the murderer be brought to justice. To prevent the continuation of this violence and the possibility of another death not only must the killer be brought to justice but the Special Patrol Group must be disbanded.

A painting by Dan Jones to commemorate the killing of Blair Peach is being reproduced as a full colour print (20" x 30") by Tower Hamlets Trade Council to raise funds for the Blair Peach memorial fund and the Southall Defence Fund.

The Blair Peach Memorial Fund has been set up to help Blair's family and to further anti-racist work. The Southall Defence Fund will give assistance to more than 300 people,

mostly young Asians, who were arrested during the Southall protest.

The print, entitled "Who Killed Blair Peach?" is available for 3.00 (incl. postage and packing) from: Tower Hamlets Trades Council (Publications) 2, Cable Street E.1.

Special concessionary rates are available for bulk orders for T.U. and anti-racist organisations.

HACKNEY WOMENS VOICE present Little Helpers - a show by Counteract about women and the Health Service.

JULY 10th 8 pm  
All Nations Club, 4, Martello Street, E.8.  
Admission £1, or 60p if not working.  
British Rail - London Fields  
Nearest tube - Bethnal Green  
35, 55, 106, 236, 253, 277 or 6 bus.



## NUCLEAR POWER NO THANKS

On the 4th of May to the 7th of May 5,000 people went to Torness in Scotland. They went to protest against the Nuclear power station which the government wants to build. In 1978 the plans started for two 650 megawatt advanced gas cooled reactor (AGC) units at Torness point, 5 miles from Dunbar in south-east Scotland. The government has given the south of Scotland £74.2 million pounds to build this power station.

One of the people who went to Torness was Chris Green, and me and another reporter interviewed him. We asked him a few questions about some of the problems of Nuclear power. He told us that if the Nuclear power station explodes many people would die. After we interviewed him a few days later he went to Torness and when he came back he told us about what went on and that there was some children from a school in Edinburgh giving out leaflets that they made themselves.

by C. Bryant.

## SMALLEY ESTATE

SMALLEY ROAD ESTATE. Now that there has been a lot of meetings, it has been decided that they have to move out people as quickly as possible. Five people have been moved out already and have gone to new accommodation. Many people have decided that they would not move back in if they were moved out, because people will get to know about this estate and not want to live here, and the only people who would live here would be people who can't get anywhere else.

So far there has been three tenants association meetings and the council's offers have improved every time, now they say that when we move all our expenses will be paid.

Many people think that it is a shame that all the houses have to be knocked down as there are some lovely play areas which will have to be destroyed just because of some stupid architect.



A packed public meeting discussed the problems of Smalley Road estate

## JOKES!

What did two donkeys say after they hadn't met for a long time?

It's been donkeys years since I've seen you.

Have you heard about the fat man who tried to catch the bus?

Did you get it?

No.

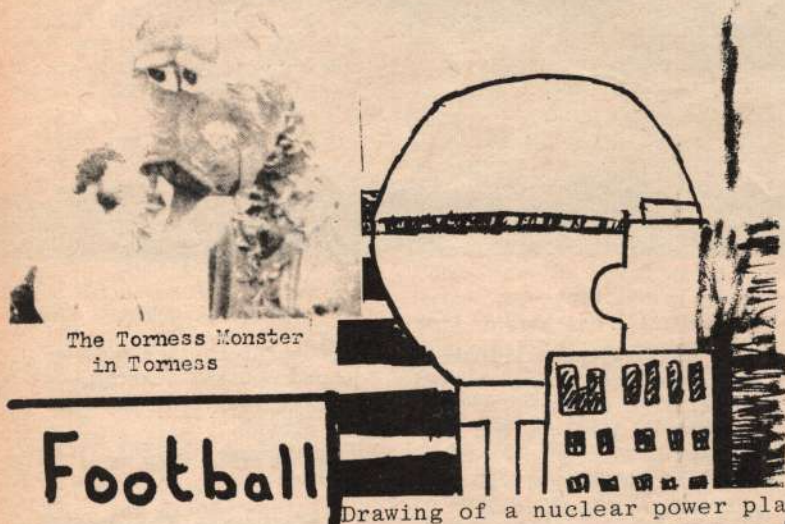
Neither did he.

Why does Dave Sexton have to drink out of a cup?

Because all his mugs are on the field.

There was an old lady from Japan, whose fingers got stuck on the pan. She was trying to make Her Shrove Tuesday pancake, and now she got stuck in a jam.

KIDS' PAGE PRODUCED BY: Chris Bryant, Janet Smith, Dean Smith, Lee James, Tracey Apicella, Roland Black, David Bryant.



The Torness Monster in Torness

## THE ARMY



My name is David Bryant. I have joined the Army Cadets. The name of my army cadets is No25 company, Queens.

On Mondays some men come down with guns and they teach us how to use them. On Wednesdays we just play table tennis, and on Thursdays we do drill, that is marching, down Rushmore School. Before you get your uniform you need boots. You can get them down at a second hand shop in Bethnal Green. The reason I joined is because a lot of my friends go there.

In the summer holidays we go to camp and this will cost £13. The good thing about annual camp is that if 26 Company Queens go we do night exercises, that is we go out into a big field with guns and blank bullets and we have a fight with another company.

Another View of Life in the Cadets. A couple of months ago there used to be 25 people coming, but now there are only 10. The reason they stopped coming is because it's boring, and we do the same old drill all the time.

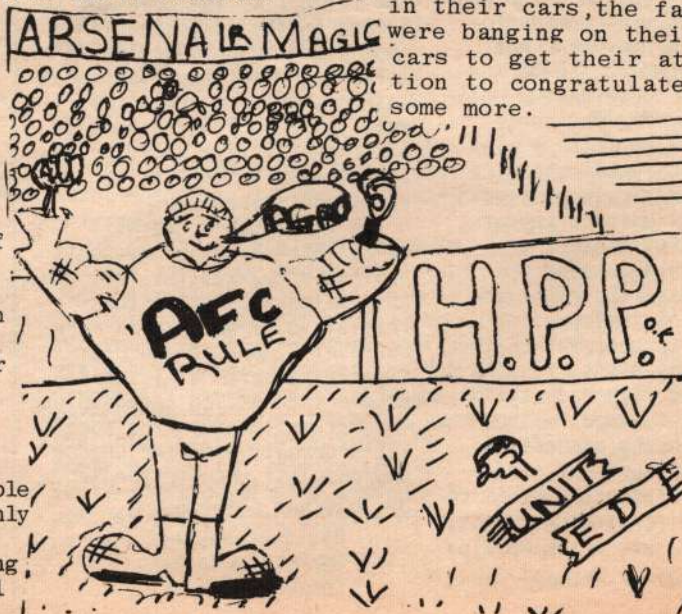
## ARSENAL

The day after Arsenal's exciting win over Man United, 3-2 to Arsenal in the F.A. Cup Final, a celebration at Islington Town Hall was attended by the players. They got there by travelling on an open topped bus from Arsenal stadium through Highbury Grove to Highbury Corner and down Upper St to the Town Hall.

There were 200,000 people welcoming them home along the route which was only 1 1/2 miles long. In Manchester there were 300,000 people which seems as though they had more fans than Arsenal, but United had a twelve mile route leading to their town hall from their stadium.

I was almost at the front near to the Town Hall. The bus came past at about 12 a.m. As the bus passed, the crowd pushed forward. I hurt my back as I was squashed up against the barrier. I threw my blue and yellow scarf on to the bus and Pat Jennings put it round his neck. Liam Brady and Graham Rix were singing the football songs as they were riding along the streets. Willie Young pretended to throw the F.A. Cup out of the bus window, and the town hall window.

When the players came out of the Town Hall Willie Young was still eating a chicken drum stick. The bus went back to the Arsenal stadium very quickly. When the players came out in their cars, the fans were banging on their cars to get their attention to congratulate them some more.



## Football

## For WHO?

We at Hackney Kid's page received an advert for St Mathias Youth Club, and in that advert it said that "If you are ten eleven, twelve or thirteen, come and join our five a side football competition."

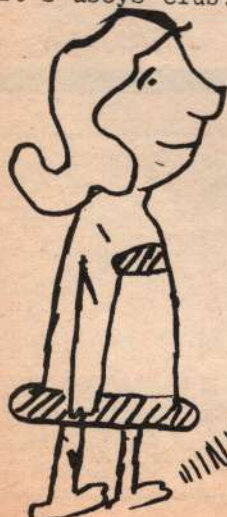
When it was brought to the attention of the workers at Centerprise by Janet Smith, who asked if girls could play she was told No, sorry it's a boys club."

Janet and I both got annoyed and complained that it didn't say that the football was only for boys, and a girls football team might have turned up and been disappointed by not being allowed to play. It is our opinion that girls should be allowed to play in boys competitions as they are just as good as boys. There are some girls football teams where boys aren't allowed to play, but this is only because of what is happening at places like St Mathias Youth Club.

These are the places where girls can play:-

Dalston Methodist Youth Club, Richmond Rd, E.5.  
Clapton Youth Centre, Clapton School, E.5.  
and Hackney Girls Project Centerprise, 136, Kingsland High St, E.5.

If you know any other places where girls play football tell us, and we will put them in the paper.





# information

All listings on this page are inserted absolutely FREE. The information for this issue has been revised and updated, but we would still welcome any further alterations or additions. For the August issue please contact Hackney People's Press, c/o 136, Kingsland High Street, E.8. by Friday, July 27th 1979.

## Community, Tenants and Pensioners Groups

**HACKNEY PENSIONERS ASSOCIATION**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8  
Advice service on Tuesday and Thursdays from 10.30 to 4pm. Tea Bar Monday to Friday 10.30 to 4pm.

**TASK FORCE**  
34 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 1620  
First advice for pensioners in Hackney. Odd jobs and visits in N16 and N4 only. Pensioners' activities and neighbourhood care in N5.

**HACKNEY ASSOCIATION FOR WELFARE OF OLD PEOPLE**  
22 Dalston Lane, E8. Tel. 254 0715

**HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT**  
74 Downham Road N1.  
Social and advice centre, aimed particularly at black people.  
Tuesday 10am-10pm  
Thursday 10am-4.30pm  
Friday 10am-10pm

**OFF CENTRE**  
25 Hackney Grove, E8. Tel. 985 8566  
Advice for young people between 13 and 25 with any problems.  
Monday-Friday 10am-6pm (open until 8.30pm on Thursdays).

**FRIENDS ANONYMOUS SERVICE**  
Friendship House, 27 Hackney Grove, E8.  
24 hour telephone service with people always willing to listen and act.  
986 2233 (24 hours)  
985 0973 (office hours)  
986 9146

**FEDERATION OF HACKNEY TENANTS ASSOCIATIONS**  
Represents borough, GLC and private tenants throughout Hackney. Contact joint secretaries for details: Bob Darke, 154 Trelawney Estate, Paragon Road, E9 and Steve Jacobs, c/o ALHE, 17 Victoria Park Square, E2 (981 1221).

**HACKNEY HOUSING ACTION GROUP**  
Concerned about the blight of homes left empty for long periods in Hackney and working to get them used. Contact Jon Webber, Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**HACKNEY GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every Monday at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16. Creche available. Contact Teresa Blackhall, 729 1647 for details.

**HOMERTON GINGERBREAD**  
Group for one parent families. Meets every other Friday at the Wally Foster Centre. Contact 985 3972 for details.

**HACKNEY UNITED TENANTS ASSOCIATION**  
c/o 35 Finmere House, Woodberry Down, N4.

## Women

**WOMEN'S CENTRE**  
1, Cazenove Road, N. 16.  
Activities include: Mon. 2.00 Relaxation classes for older women. Mon. 7.00 Sewing class. Tues. 7.30 Meditation class (for men and women). Thurs. 7.30 Relaxation class. Fri. 7.00 - 9.00 Vegetarian meal at very reasonable price. Sat. 12.00 - 2.00 vegetarian meal. Playgroup each morning. Further info: 806 6664. All women welcome.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST FEMINIST GROUP**  
Meet alternate Mondays at the Factory, Matthias Road, N 16, at 7.30pm. Contact Pat 254 5821 or Harriet 254 5208.

**HACKNEY TRADES COUNCIL WOMEN'S SUB COMMITTEE**  
Re-formed recently. Meets once a month. Contact Judy Newcombe, 254 0685 for details. All women and men welcome.

**RAPE CRISIS CENTRE**  
Tel. 340 6145. 24 hour information and advice.

**HACKNEY ABORTION CAMPAIGN**  
Meetings fortnightly at 20 Parkholme Road, E8. Contact 249 3768 for details.

## Ecology

**HACKNEY FRIENDS OF THE EARTH**  
Active group, campaigning on safe energy, bikes, wildlife, recycling etc. Contact Jim Read, 67 Fairholt Road, N16. 802 0122.

**HACKNEY ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP**  
Open to all those wishing to combat nuclear power. Meets every other Thursday in Centerprise. Contact 226 1799  
**SUN POWER ECOLOGY CENTRE**  
83, Blackstock Road, N.4.  
Bookshop specialises in the environment, cooking, health, education, childrens' books; also crafts and some whole-foods. 01 226 1799

## Community Centres

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
Bookshop and office hours:  
Tuesday-Saturday 10am-6.30pm.  
Coffee bar and meeting room hours:  
Tuesday-Friday 10am-9.30pm.  
Saturday 10am-5.30pm.  
FACILITIES:  
Coffee bar; bookshop; advice, information and contacts for individuals and groups. Typewriters can be used free, duplicating at cost price. Ask in General Office.  
ADVICE CENTRE:  
Legal and welfare advice session on Thursdays 6.30-7.30pm. Contact Jon Webber or ring 254 9634.  
READING CENTRE:  
For adults who find it hard to read or write. Contact Sue Shrapnel or ring 254 9635.  
PUBLISHING PROJECT:  
Publishing books by people who live in Hackney.

**WALLY FOSTER CENTRE**  
Homerton Road, E9. Tel. 985 3972.  
Community Centre with many activities:  
SOCIAL SERVICES ADVICE CENTRE: every weekday 9am-5pm.  
ADULT LITERACY CLASSES:  
Every Monday at 7pm.  
Also playgroup, mothers and toddlers group, pensioners lunch club, school welfare advice, youth club for 5-8 year olds, Kung Fu and juvenile dance classes.  
See also ADVICE and NEIGHBOURHOOD ENGLISH CLASSES listings.

**THE FACTORY**  
107 Matthias Road, N16 (next to Newington Green School). Tel. 249 3066.  
Runs mothers and toddlers clubs, sewing classes, English classes, youth club, childminders drop-in group (creche provided), after school club, arts and crafts club, pensioners lunch club, food co-op and an Indian dance class.  
Contact them for further details.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help for all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities.  
Mothers and toddlers group on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30pm (homeworkers especially welcome).  
"Encourage your child to read" class on Mondays, 5.30-7.30pm. Supplementary school now operating. Classes on Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Saturdays.  
Contact them for further information.  
Also see ADVICE and Neighbourhood English Classes and Gingerbread under COMMUNITY GROUPS listings on this page.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
Runs playgroup, pensioners lunch club, legal advice centre, after-school junior club and writers' workshop as well as evening classes in shoe repairing, dressmaking, pottery, crafts, old-time dancing and singing. Also Women's Discussion Group and the Hoxton Drama Group.  
Many events take place in the theatre each month—see the EVENTS AND MEETINGS section. Also see ADVICE listing.

**LATIN AMERICA CENTRE**  
17 Hoxton Square, N1. Tel. 739 2910.  
Social and cultural centre for Latin Americans and British people interested in Latin America.

## Health

**CITY AND HACKNEY COMMUNITY HEALTH COUNCIL**  
Shoreditch Health Centre, 210 Kingsland Road, E2. Tel. 739 6308/8351.  
The public's voice in the NHS—provides advice, takes up your complaints and criticisms. Open meeting on 3rd Tuesday of each month at 6.30pm. Publishes HEALTH IN HACKNEY: a comprehensive FREE guide to health facilities and services in the area.

**HANDICAPPED CHILDREN IN HACKNEY**  
Advice, ideas, information. Trying to contact all families in district with a handicapped child. Contact Ann Purdon, 48 Mount Pleasant Lane, E5. Tel. 808 8438.

**Volunteers needed at: Huddleston Centre, St James the Great Church, Lower Clapton Rd. E.5. 01 985 8869.**

**THE BIRTH CENTRE**  
188 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 251 4076.  
Information, advice, lectures and seminars on birth at home and in hospital.  
Open evening every Wednesday 8pm. 25p.

**EAST LONDON WOMEN'S HEALTH GROUP**  
c/o 116 Albion Drive, E8.

**STOKE NEWINGTON HEALTH GROUP**  
Local people interested in all matters concerned with health. Contact Alan Clarke, 21 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 3277.

**COMMUNITY HEALTH FOUNDATION**  
188 Old Street, EC1. 251 4076.

## Meditation

**PARTNERSHIP FOR PROGRESS IN HACKNEY**  
Simple, natural, effortless transcendental meditation technique realizes full creative potential. Introductory talks: 8pm Wednesdays, Thursdays and Fridays at 51 Downs Park Road, E8. Tel. 254 6280.

**ANANDA MARGA**  
1 Cazenove Road, N16.  
For spiritual progress and social change. Introduction to meditation class Tues. 7.30. Everyone welcome.

## Advice

Free legal advice on housing, landlord and tenant, employment, social security, welfare, matrimonial, immigration and discrimination problems can be obtained from the following centres:

**CENTERPRISE**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9632.  
THURSDAYS 6.30-7.30pm.

**HOXTON HALL**  
128a Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 5431.  
WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**KINGSMEAD**  
Wally Foster Centre, Homerton High Street, E9. Tel. 985 3804.  
TUESDAYS 7-8pm.  
**STOKE NEWINGTON ADVICE GROUP SERVICE.**  
102 Manor Road, N16. Tel. 800 3770.  
MONDAYS & WEDNESDAYS 7-8pm.

**ALLEN ROAD**  
12 Allen Road, N16.  
THURSDAYS 7-8pm.

Advice can also be obtained from:

**HACKNEY ADVICE BUREAU & LAW CENTRE**  
236-8 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8446.  
Open Monday-Friday 10am-5pm (7.30 on Thursdays).  
Legal aid and advice on housing, rents, repairs and employment problems.

**CITIZENS ADVICE BUREAUX**  
1-11 Hoxton Street, N1. Tel. 739 4654.  
106 Old Street, EC1. Tel. 253 2155.  
**HACKNEY COUNCIL FOR RACIAL EQUALITY.** 245 Mare St, E8.  
TUESDAYS 7-8.30pm.  
Immigration, discrimination, housing law and other problems. 986 4121.

**THE FAMILY CENTRE**  
50 Rectory Road, N16. Tel. 249 8334.  
Information and help in all community problems. Cooking, washing, creche facilities. Open all day.

**HOUSING ADVICE CENTRE**  
302-4 Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 8123.  
Helps with all housing problems. Repairs, rebates, landlord/tenant, council/tenant.

**HACKNEY CENTRAL INFORMATION BUREAU**  
Town Hall, Mare Street, E8. Tel. 986 3123.

**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY ADVICE CENTRE**  
5 Stamford Hill, N16.  
Advice and information on legal, financial, welfare, housing, social security and personal problems.  
FRIDAYS 7-8pm.

**RECTORY HOUSING AND WELFARE ADVICE CENTRE**  
Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N16.  
Help with housing, employment, health and social security and community and race relations problems.  
SUNDAYS 10.30am-12.00 noon.

Advice can also be obtained from **HARAMBEE 2 PROJECT, OFF CENTRE and FRIENDS ANONYMOUS.** See Community Groups listing on this page.

For MPs and councillors Advice surgeries see **LABOUR PARTY under POLITICAL GROUPS** listing on this page.

Arrested? Helping enquiries? Evicted?  
**EMERGENCY LEGAL SERVICE**  
Ring 986 9891. 24 hour free legal service from 6pm Friday over whole weekend.

## Education

**ENGLISH FOR SPANISH SPEAKERS**  
Tuesdays and Thursdays at 6.30pm at Latin America Centre, 17 Hoxton Square, N1.

**ADULT LITERACY SCHEMES**  
For details of adult literacy courses in your area contact:

Carol Morris, BETHNAL GREEN AEI, 229 Bethnal Green Road, E2. 739 7790.  
Donald Kenrick, CLAPTON AEI, Brooke House, Kenninghall Road, E5. 985 9646.

Graham Morris, HACKNEY COLLEGE, 249 7221.  
June Hewes, HACKNEY LIBRARIES, Shoreditch Library, Pitfield Street, N1. 739 5153.  
Sue Shrapnel, HACKNEY READING CENTRE, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. 254 9635.  
Cal Weatherall, HIGHBURY MANOR AEI, Jack Ashley School, Blackstock Road, N4 226 9190.  
John Rake, HOXTON HALL, 128a Hoxton Street, N1. 739 5431.

**HACKNEY LANGUAGE SCHEME**  
Teach the kind of English needed in day-to-day life. Classes operate throughout Hackney. For further information contact Annette Giles, 249 1496, or call at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N.16 on Thursday mornings.

## Workshops

**THE WORKSHOP**  
81 Lenthall Road, E8. Tel. 254 3082.  
Print your own posters and T-shirts. Cost of materials only. Open by arrangement.

**COMET WORKSHOP**  
Halcumb Street, N1. Tel. 729 0936.  
Learn sewing, macrame, toy-making, woodwork. Creche available, toy library. Tea and coffee. Open every weekday.



## Political Groups

**HACKNEY LABOUR PARTY**  
**HACKNEY NORTH AND STOKE NEWINGTON**  
Constituents advice service at 7pm every Friday at 5 Stamford Hill, N16 when local councillors are present.

Ken Livingstone, GLC councillor, has advice service generally on 4th Thursday of each month.  
Details from 5 Stamford Hill, N16. Tel. 800 7430.  
**HACKNEY NORTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary, Mumtaz Khan, c/o 5 Stamford Hill, N16.

**HACKNEY SOUTH & SHOREDITCH**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm, every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Ron Brown, MP, available 2nd and 4th Friday of each month. Margaret Morgan, GLC Councillor, available 1st Friday of each month. Local councillors every Friday. Advice service also operates at Holy Trinity Church Hall, Blotchey Street, N1, at 7pm, on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Ron Brown is present on 1st and 3rd Fridays. Margaret Morgan on 3rd Fridays, and local councillors on 1st and 3rd Fridays.

**HACKNEY SOUTH LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact secretary c/o 96 Dalston Lane, E8.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL**  
Constituents advice service at 7.30pm, every Friday at 96 Dalston Lane, E8. Stanley Clinton Davis, MP, available every Friday. Ellis Hillman, GLC Councillor, available every other Friday. Local councillors every Friday.  
**HACKNEY CENTRAL LABOUR PARTY YOUNG SOCIALISTS:** for details contact Mrs A Smith, 294 Navarino Mansions, E8.

**HACKNEY YOUNG COMMUNIST LEAGUE**  
Meets weekly. All young people welcome.  
**HACKNEY COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Twelve branches hold meetings regularly throughout the borough. All welcome.  
**HACKNEY MORNING STAR GROUP**  
Meets weekly. Organises political, social and fund-raising events in support of Britain's socialist daily paper, the Morning Star. All Morning Star readers/supporters welcome.

For further information and a copy of the monthly newsletter detailing the meetings, campaigning actions etc. organised by the Hackney Morning Star group, Young Communist League and Communist Party contact David Green, 126 Amhurst Road, E8. Tel. 249 6374.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST WORKERS PARTY**  
Meets regularly in the borough. Contact Liz 739 9772 for details.

**LONDON WORKERS GROUP**  
For independent militants, working anarchists and all those who wish to organise for direct workers control. Meets fortnightly. Contact Box W, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1, or ring Dave, 249 7042.

**ANARCHY COLLECTIVE**  
Produces ANARCHY, a seasonal magazine on sale in Centerprise and Rising Free, 20p. Also involved in general anarchist activity. Ring 359 4794 before 8pm.

**LIBERTARIAN COMMUNIST GROUP**  
c/o 136 Kingsland High Street, E8.

**ANARCHIST COMMUNIST ASSOCIATION**  
Box 11, Rising Free, 182 Upper Street, N1.

**SOCIETY FOR ANGLO-CHINESE UNDERSTANDING**  
Hackney/Islington Branch. Contact Maureen Taylor or Mon Lawlor (263 4359 during daytime). SACU is open to anyone who favours friendship and understanding between Britain and socialist China.

**HACKNEY COMMITTEE AGAINST RACIALISM**  
All-party anti-racialist campaign. Meets first Wednesday of each month at the Family Centre, Rectory Road, N16.

**SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN HACKNEY GROUP**  
Meets second Thursday of every month at 8pm at Centerprise, 136 Kingsland High Street E8.

**HACKNEY AND ISLINGTON WORLD DEVELOPMENT MOVEMENT**  
Campaigns on third world issues, especially against the Arms Trade to these countries.

**NEW COMMUNIST PARTY**  
Hackney Branch meets on a Tuesday night at Centerprise, 8pm. Information from NCP, 395 Walworth Road, SE17 2AW.

**HACKNEY SOCIALIST CHALLENGE SUPPORTERS GROUP**  
fortnightly on Thursdays at 7.30pm in the Britannia, Mare St.  
Further details from Hackney SC, c/o PO Box 50, London N.1. or from Martin, 359 8180 (day).

**AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL Hackney Group.**  
Meets 2nd Tuesday of each month, 8.00 at: Friendship House, 27, Hackney Grove, (off Reading Lane) E.8.

**NORTH HACKNEY ANTI NAZI LEAGUE**  
Meets fortnightly. Contact Box 9, c/o 136, Kingsland High Street, E.8.

**WORKSHOP**  
77a, Lauriston Road, E.9.  
01 986 9585 Open 10.00 - 6.00 Mon. - Sat.  
Pottery workshop and shop selling ceramics and pottery handmade in the workshop. Also Macrame plant hangers, jewelry, cards and other crafts.



## Children

**HACKNEY UNDER FIVES**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information and support for parents with children below school age. Contact Madge Harte. Stores are available every Saturday from 10am-12.30pm. Open monthly meetings first Tuesday of every month at 8pm, in Centerprise.

**HACKNEY PLAY ASSOCIATION**  
136 Kingsland High Street, E8. Tel. 254 9145.  
Information, advice and help to people organising play facilities for children. Contact Lilian McPettridge or Mo Ross.

**CHILD-CARE BULLETIN COLLECTIVE**  
112b Forest Road E8.  
Publishes bulletins and pamphlets about child care and related topics. Collective is open to anyone interested. Contact 226 0817 or 254 2227 for details of next meeting—with creche.

## TOY LIBRARY

**Family Centre, 50 Rectory Road, N.16.** A new toy library for all children under 5. Play facilities, tea. Every Tuesday 2-3.30pm. Contact Sue Corlett 806 1968.

## Transport

**HACKNEY PUBLIC TRANSPORT ACTION COMMITTEE**  
Meets regularly to discuss how to improve public transport in Hackney. Contact Tony Jacobs, 3 Hockley House, Morning Lane, E9. Tel. 986 2303.

**HACKNEY CYCLISTS ACTION GROUP**  
Contact Tessa Bain, 10 Kynaston Road, N.16. 254 4559

## Gays

**EAST LONDON FAGGOTS**  
Collective of gay socialists living and working in East London. Contact 19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.

**GAY SWITCHBOARD**  
Tel. 837 7324. 24 hour information and advice.

**EAST LONDON CHE (Campaign for Homosexual Equality)**  
East London CHE welcomes gay women and men. For details phone John, 504 1110 or Kate, 539 2331.

**GENMA**  
Gemma Group for Disabled Lesbians, including older women. Contact BM Box 5700, London WC1V 6XX.

## Food

**TOWARDS JUPITER**  
191 Mare Street E8. 985 5394  
Wholefood shop also selling books and crafts.  
**FOOD FOR ALL**  
3 Cazenove Road, N16. Tel. 806 4138.  
Wholefood shop, also selling books and crafts. Run by Ananda Marga, a socio-spiritual organisation (see Meditation).

## OFF CENTRE

Drop-in centre for Young Unemployed.

Free snacks, use of telephones and newspapers. A meeting place for the young unemployed.

Off Centre Basement.  
25 Hackney Grove, E8. 986 4016.

## HACKNEY SOCIETY

An amenity group, affiliated to the Civic Trust, concerned with Hackney's environment and architecture. Meets on the third Monday of each month.  
Details from Chairman, David Batchelor, Tel. 985 7937 or Secretary, Robert Hill, 75 Glyn Road E5 Tel. 986 8661.

## Music and Broadcasts

**ISLINGTON & HACKNEY MUSIC WORKSHOP**  
Sing-song third Thursday every month, 8pm. Free. Ring Dave 249 2353.

**HACKNEY HOSPITAL RADIO**  
Hackney Radio Roadshow disco unit. Contact Bob Kingsley 539 6235 or Hackney Hospital Radio, 985 5555 ext 115.

**POETRY AND MUSIC CLUB**  
The Chatterbox, 1a, Chatterton Rd, (off Blackstock Rd.) Finsbury Park, N.4.  
Weds. 8.00 - 11.00 p.m.  
All welcome. 20p admission. Performers free.

**HACKNEY CHESS CLUB**  
Weds. 7.30pm - 10.30pm  
Fri. 7.30pm - 10.00pm  
Centerprise Daily  
Tues. - Sat.  
For any information contact T. Wilson, 135, Manor Road, N.16 5PB.

## Men

**DALSTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Pete, 39 Parkhome Road, E8. Tel. 249 3072.

**EAST LONDON/BRIXTON MEN'S GROUP**  
Contact Paul, 12 Montague Road, E8. Tel. 254 9497.

**EAST LONDON MEN'S CENTRE**  
19 Redmans Road, E1. Tel. 790 2454.





Carlos Auguste (I.F.L.)

Anti-nuclear demonstrators march along Kingsland High Street protesting against the conveyance of nuclear fuel and waste along the North London Line.

## UP & COMING

Here's a reminder about Hackney's July Festivals:

### HACKNEY MARSH FUN FESTIVAL

14th & 15th  
This year the theme is "All Abroad". Travel to any country you like without leaving Homerton! There will be international cuisine, camel racing, Steel bands, dance troupes etc. A carnival will be winding around the streets neighbouring on Daubeney Fields where the festival is to be held.

### STOKE NEWINGTON 14th

Held on Stoke Newington Common, off Northwold Road, there will be stalls, music, dancing and drama from local groups, and the centre piece - a carnival procession from Stoke Newington Town Hall via Newington Green to the Common.

### SHOREDITCH 21st & 22nd

Reviving an old festival tradition the Shoreditch festival is back this summer, in Shoreditch Park. There will be a carnival, stalls and displays, as well as more unusual entertainments, including custom car competitions, open air boxing and pub competitions. Shoreditch needs extra fun and summer silliness more than most places, so don't miss this one. And of course Hackney People's Press badge maker will be there!

### JUMBLE SALE

IN AID OF HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS  
Sat. July 21st  
At the Family Centre, 50, Rectory Road, N.16.  
2.00 pm  
Admission 5p.

### HACKNEY SOCIALIST CHALLENGE GROUP

- meets fortnightly at the Britannia pub, Mare Street, E.8. at 7.30 pm.  
Future meetings include:  
Weds. 11 July - 'The left and the Labour Party'  
Thurs. 26th July - 'Defend Charter 77'.  
Further details from Hackney SC group, c/o Box 50, London N1 2XP, or ring Martin on 359 8180 (day).

Mobilising meeting for the July 21st picket of Harmondsworth Detention Centre, Heathrow. The title of this will be:

NO TO ALL STATE ATTACKS ON THE WORKING CLASS! NO NATIONALITY ACT! SMASH IMMIGRATION LAWS!

The speaker will be Keith Thompson. Fri. 20th July at 7.30 pm at Fairholt House, City of London Polytechnic, Whitechapel High Street, nr. Aldgate East tube.

Picket of Harmondsworth Detention centre - AGAINST ALL IMMIGRATION CONTROLS. Assemble: Hounslow West tube, Saturday, 21st July, at 2.00. For further information, write to July 21st organisation committee, BM RCT, London WC1V 6XX.

## N.H.S. CUTS Nuclear Farce

FROM PAGE ONE

that "nowhere in this plan are the revenue consequences of opening a new hospital and moving geriatric and psychiatric beds to Barts considered". The CHC accordingly attacks the Health District for poor planning and total lack of data. It says that if the plans go ahead, "we cannot share the District Management Team's faith that the economies of this scale will produce the extra revenue", which the cuts are supposed to yield. So the cuts could even fail to be justifiable on economic grounds.

The District Plan, which supposedly looks at the next 3 years, also points out the need for "strong and active community primary care services". The same report suggests that the Community Health Service may have to have its funds further reduced as required by the Regional Strategic Plan!

The overall future is bleak, and the attitude of planners remarkable. They talk of "progress" to the public and make plans to cut, rationalise and close hospitals behind their backs. Their plans take next to no account of social factors; indeed, the social justification for beds, which is particularly high in Hackney, does not come into the planning criteria at all.

With this black picture the campaign, which was getting officially under way as we went to press, will see the linking of Hackney CHC with CHCs at Tower Hamlets and Newham, and the involvement of East London Trades Councils. Hackney Borough Council is also adding its weight to the public and hospital workers' resentment. And on a national level a vast campaign against the Tories' savage cuts on what should be the people's health services looks inevitable and highly necessary.

FROM PAGE ONE

National Union of Railwaymen admit, passed on to station staff on routes used by 'Nuclear Trains'.

The National Union of Railwaymen (NUR) however, while "not wishing to be complacent on the issue", feels "reasonably sure" that the transport of radioactive material is "as safe as it can be". They accept that there is an "inherent danger" in the conveyance of radioactive materials, but believe that in the event of seepage there would be only "minimal contamination". Guards on these trains, the NUR claims, are informed what to do in the event of an accident. But the information which B.R. gives out seems quite inadequate in the event of such a situation as has been postulated by Dr Charles Wakstein, the 'dissident' nuclear engineer.

It was left to Hackney Anti Nuclear Group (HANG) last month to draw to the attention of some railway workers on the North London line the dangers of having both fuel and waste transported to and from Sizewell and

Bradwell power stations. On June 2nd HANG picketed and leafletted at Highbury station, moving on to Dalston Junction, leafletting passengers and workers on a train to Broad Street en route. At Dalston HANG received rather more general support, particularly from Graham Road residents, by whose homes pass these trains. Ridley Market and Kingsland High Street were then leafletted alerting the public to the potential danger.

### Apathy

The lack of support for HANG from local groups, and in particular the organised left, showed up the apathy of many socialists towards the anti-nuclear fight in this country. HANG's protest coincided with large demonstrations in the USA and elsewhere that weekend, and followed extensive local publicity, even in the 'Gazette' which finally reported the transport of fuel six weeks after it first appeared in HPP.

## HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS

HACKNEY PEOPLE'S PRESS is an alternative non-profit making monthly newspaper produced by an open group of people who live or work in Hackney. We publish this paper because we believe that Hackney needs an alternative to the commercial press to serve the real interests of its people. We have no editor, no shareholders, no commercial advertising and no party political backing.

HPP is your newspaper: anyone who lives or works in Hackney is welcome to come and help us. No one is paid by the paper and all decisions are made collectively.

We hold meetings every Monday (except the last one in each month) at 8pm in Centreprise, 136 Kingsland High Street, E8. You can come along to one of these meetings and volunteer to help us produce, write or sell the next issue - or simply tell us what you think of the paper.

If you can't come one Monday

then write to us c/o Centreprise or ring 249 0311 any evening or weekend.

HPP is sold through various newsagents and other outlets throughout Hackney. If you think that your newsagent would like to sell it, on sale or return, then please contact us. And if you don't think that you can spare the time to become more fully involved, but you enjoy reading the paper and think more people should read it, then please get in touch if you are willing to sell a few copies to your friends or neighbours or at meetings.

### Wanted from women

Your innermost thoughts, experiences and anxieties and dreams about being pregnant, or not being pregnant, about labour, about post-natal 'blues' or reds. We are collecting material for an anthology of women's experiences. We'd like drawings, dreams, fantasies, realities. Send copies to: Jo Rob, 21b, Wayland Avenue, E.8. Originals will be returned. (Ass. of Radical Midwives.)

### JOB VACANCY

WANTED: Full-time refuge worker for Hackney Women's Aid. Write: HWA, 87, Cecilia Road, E.8. for details.

## CARF



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